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July 1964

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25 Pages

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

KUSHKA MILITARY AREAS

KUSHKA, USSR

TURKESTAN MD



CIA



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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

KUSHKA MILITARY AREAS
35-17N 062-20E
KUSHKA, MARYYSKAYA OBLAST, USSR
TURKESTAN MD
BE NO: (SEE TEXT) COMOR NO: [REDACTED]

NPIC/R-555/64

July 1964

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PREFACE

This report is in response to requirement USIB-A-64 calling for a detailed photographic interpretation of Kushka military installations using the format of the N-236 series of reports on Belorussian military installations.

The titles and letter designators used in this report conform to those in the referenced series. Standard U.S. military terminology has been used throughout. In the descriptions of the firing ranges, the range length is given as the distance from the static firing line to the most distant target and the angles of moving-target runs are referred to in terms of deflection from a perpendicular line drawn to the static firing line, i.e. 40 degrees left, 35 degrees right.

Titles and letter designators for the various facilities are as follows: (A) railroad service, (B) road service, (C) landing strips, (D) administrative and troop housing areas, (E) storage areas, (F) ammunition storage areas, (G) POL storage areas, (H) other buildings and facilities, (J) equipment storage/maintenance areas, (K) athletic fields, (L) small-arms firing ranges, (M) driver-training areas, (N) tank/assault gun firing ranges, (P) flat-trajectory firing ranges, (Q) artillery emplacements, (R) infantry or combined-arms field training areas, (S) special training facilities, (T) unidentified facilities or tracking activity. When a specific facility is not observed or referred to, both its title and letter designator are omitted.

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SUMMARY

Three military facilities are located in the Kushka area: Kushka Army Barracks River (BE No [REDACTED]), an extensive military training area, and a supply depot and rail-to-road transfer point (Figures 1 and 2).

Kushka Army Barracks River is located on the west edge of Kushka (35-17N 062-20E) and is served by a single-track rail line, which branches from the Ashkabad-Chardzhou line in

Mary and terminates 6 kilometers (km) southwest of Kushka, and by the loose-surfaced, all-weather Mary-Kushka road.

The training area surrounds Kushka and Kushka Army Barracks River, although its major facilities are located to the south and east of the city and barracks area. Many secondary roads provide access to the various training facilities.

The supply depot and rail-to-road transfer

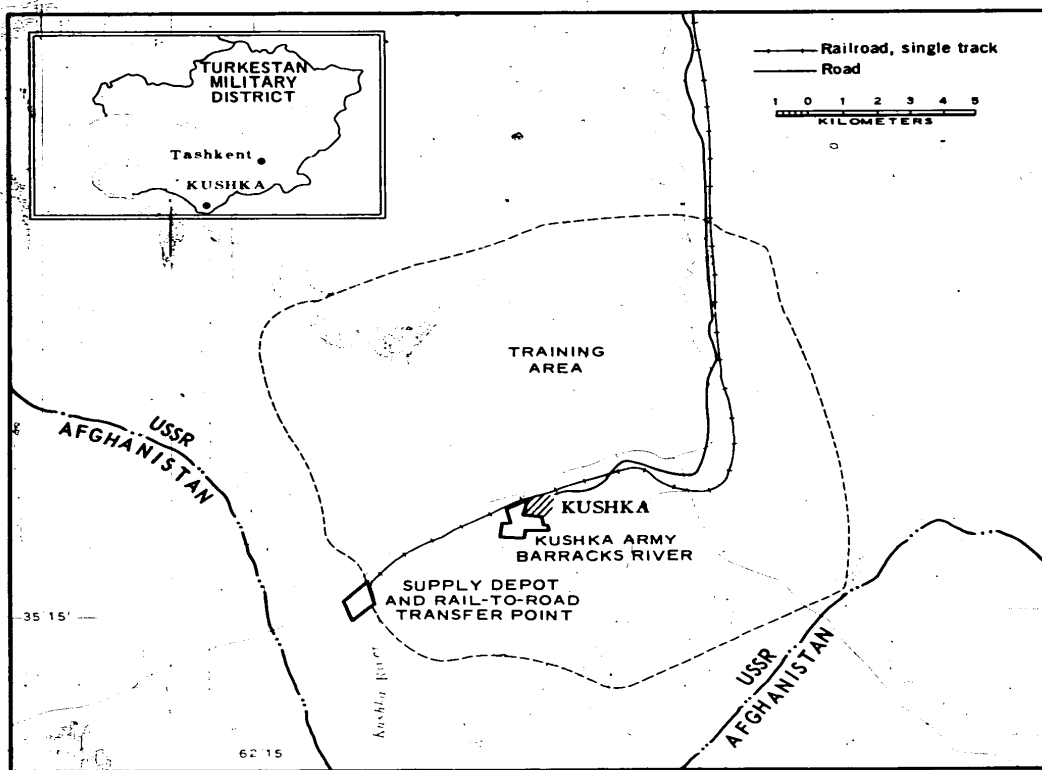


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF KUSHKA MILITARY AREAS.

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point are located 6 km southwest of Kushka at the terminus of the Mary-Kushka branch rail line, approximately 3 km from the Afghanistan border. Four spurs serve the installation and at least four parallel tracks in the center serve as a probable classification yard. There are four trackside docks, two 1,650 feet long and two 300 feet long.

Kushka Army Barracks River (Figures 2, 3, and 4) covers approximately 1,000 acres and contains a total of 443 buildings, including: 9 multistory administration buildings, 3 one-story administration buildings, 26 multistory barracks, 10 one-story barracks, one multistory probable barracks, 4 multistory probable officers quarters, 59 officer/dependents quarters, 143 storage buildings, 148 support buildings, and 22 vehicle sheds and 9 equipment/vehicle maintenance buildings located in six vehicle storage/maintenance areas, a revetted ammunition storage bunker, 8 probable underground explosives storage facilities, an athletic field, two vehicle hardstands, an occupied six-gun AAA site and 18 vertical storage tanks. The barracks area is also directly associated with the training area.

The training area (Figures 2 and 5-11) covers 45,000 acres on a series of linear, steeply sloping hills oriented in a north/south direction. The nature of the training facilities indicates an attempt to adapt to this terrain. The training facilities include 2 wheeled-vehicle driver-training courses, one probable tracked-vehicle driver-training course, one probable flat-trajectory firing range, 3 combined-arms field training courses, 12 unoccupied 4-position field artillery emplacements, 8 possible 4-position field artillery emplacements, 4 unoccupied 6-position field artillery emplacements, 7 unoccupied 6-gun AAA sites, and one possible unoccupied 4-gun AAA site. An extensive network of personnel trenches crisscrosses a large portion of the training area.

The supply depot and rail-to-road transfer point (Figures 2, 12, and 13) cover approximately 130 acres and contain 9 storage buildings, one probable administration building, 16 support buildings, 2 vehicle parks containing one vehicle shed and one maintenance building, and 4 POL tanks. There is also a large amount of open storage within the confines of the installation.

The three areas are covered by KEYHOLE missions between [REDACTED]

The variance in scale between the earlier KH-4 camera system coverage and the [REDACTED] camera system coverage precludes an accurate comparative analysis, since much of the detail discernible on the [REDACTED] coverage was not visible on the earlier KEYHOLE missions; however, all areas are seen to be active during the period of coverage.

KUSHKA ARMY BARRACKS RIVER (Figures 2, 3, and 4)

Administrative and Troop Housing Areas

Area D1 contains 3 single-story administration buildings, 4 multistory administration buildings, 29 officers and dependents quarters, 2 storage buildings, 14 support buildings, and one multistory support building.

The quarters are small, square buildings with irregular-shaped roofs.

Area D2 contains 3 multistory administration buildings, 26 multistory barracks, 10 single story barracks, 4 multistory probable officer quarters, 19 officer and dependent quarters, 7 storage buildings, 43 support buildings, and one multistory support building.

The quarters are small, square buildings, whereas the barracks are large, rectangular buildings.

Area D3 contains 11 officer and dependent quarters, and 5 support buildings.

The quarters are rectangular and probably single-story buildings. The support buildings are probable latrines.

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General Storage Areas

Area E1 contains 21 storage buildings. Six of the largest buildings in this area are directly served by rail. The other buildings are road served.

Area E2 contains 2 support buildings, 6 possible special storage buildings, and one possible storage building under construction.

The storage buildings are approximately 250 by 60 feet and have monitor roofs. They are located in cuts on the slopes of hills.

In the hills south and east of the barracks area are 106 storage buildings, widely dispersed and varying greatly in size.

Ammunition Storage Areas

Area F1 contains a 50- by 30-foot ammunition bunker located at the base of a hill.

Area F2 contains eight small gable-roof buildings which appear to be entrances to underground storage facilities for explosives located at the bases of hills.

POL Storage Area

Area G contains 3 vertical tanks 40 feet in diameter, 6 vertical tanks [REDACTED] in diameter, one vertical tank 80 feet in diameter, 6 horizontal tanks [REDACTED] in diameter and 40 feet long, and 7 support buildings.

The area is served by a rail spur and is secured by a wall.

Other Facilities

A walled area southwest of Area E1 contains a generator house, five support buildings and two vertical POL tanks.

Two hardstands are located southwest of Area E2. [REDACTED] coverage showed 8 possible vehicles, 12 possible tanks, and 3 possible artillery pieces parked on one of the hardstands.

Equipment Storage/Maintenance Areas

Area J1 contains 3 vehicle sheds measuring 360 by 40 feet, one vehicle shed measuring 235

by 30 feet, one vehicle shed measuring 370 by 65 feet, one maintenance building measuring 70 by 35 feet, and 12 support buildings.

On [REDACTED] coverage, 77 large cargo vehicles and approximately 24 small vehicles were observed in this area. The area appears to be secured by a probable fence.

Area J2 contains one vehicle shed measuring 575 by 40 feet, and 6 support buildings.

On [REDACTED] coverage, 8 large cargo vehicles and approximately 3 small vehicles were observed in this area.

Area J3 contains one vehicle shed measuring 600 by 30 feet, one maintenance building, 15 support buildings, and one multistory administration building.

On [REDACTED] coverage, 121 cargo vehicles were observed in this area. The area is secured by a probable fence.

Area J4 contains 4 vehicle sheds measuring 365 by 45 feet, 2 vehicle sheds measuring 450 by 30 feet, 2 vehicle sheds measuring 260 by 30 feet, one vehicle shed measuring 240 by 25 feet, one vehicle shed measuring 165 by 25 feet, one maintenance building measuring 320 by 50 feet, one maintenance building measuring 200 by 50 feet, one multistory probable barracks, one multistory administration building, and 23 support buildings.

On [REDACTED] coverage, 23 cargo vehicles and 11 utility vehicles were observed in this area. The area is secured by a wall.

Area J5 contains 2 vehicle sheds measuring 220 by 30 feet, one maintenance building measuring 145 by 50 feet, and 8 support buildings.

On [REDACTED] coverage, approximately 22 utility vehicles were observed. The area is secured by a wall.

Area J6 contains one vehicle shed measuring 330 by 30 feet, 2 vehicle sheds measuring 380 by 30 feet, one maintenance building measuring 230 by 35 feet, 3 maintenance buildings

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measuring 90 by 40 feet, and 5 support buildings.

On [REDACTED] coverage, 26 utility vehicles, 16 cargo vehicles, and three possible artillery pieces were observed in this area, which is secured by a possible fence.

Athletic Field

Area K appears to be a combination drill and athletic field.

Artillery Emplacement

The barracks area has an occupied six-gun AAA battery site.

TRAINING AREA (Figures 2 and 5-11)

Administrative and Troop Housing Areas

A bivouac area containing 342 tent bases and six support buildings is located across a stream north of a combined-arms field training course (Figures 2 and 9). The buildings probably have an administration/support function. Scarring is present on [REDACTED] photography.

Equipment Storage/Maintenance Area

Approximately 600 vehicle/storage revetments are widely dispersed throughout the training area adjacent to trails at the bases of hills.

Driver Training Areas

A probably tracked-vehicle driver-training course (Figure 5) is visible as heavy tracked-vehicle scarring in the form of a closed circuit. It has been laid out on very hilly terrain with various portions located in valleys, on slopes, and on hill crests. Two buildings and a circular tank-shaped object in the center of the area are visible on [REDACTED] coverage. Three straight trenches extend from the buildings to the inner edge of the tracks and run parallel to them for a short distance.

Figure 6 shows a wheeled-vehicle driver-training course composed of two figure-8's and an irregular oval closed circuit. Heavy scarring runs immediately east of the oval and is probably associated with the course. Scarring indicates the course is being used.

A wheeled-vehicle driver-training course consisting of two figure-8's and two adjacent closed circuits is shown on Figure 7. At the south end of the course is a fenced probable vehicle park/administration area containing nine buildings. Heavy scarring indicates the course is in use.

Flat-Trajectory Firing Ranges

Figure 8 shows a 2,800-foot probable flat-trajectory firing range with 16 moving target runs. Nine target runs are 130 degrees right, two are 80 degrees right, two are 120 degrees right, and three are 40 degrees right. The target runs are located in a series of hills and some of them are probably abandoned. There are three support buildings which probably serve as fire-control points. Heavy ground scarring is evident directly south of the buildings indicating that the facility is being used.

Artillery Batteries

The training area (Figure 2) contains: 12 four-position field artillery batteries, 4 six-position field artillery batteries, 8 possible four-position field artillery batteries, 6 six-gun AAA sites probably for training, and one possible four-gun AAA site.

Five of the four-position field artillery batteries have a trench connecting the firing positions. These batteries are located on level terrain, hill crests, and on slopes of hills.

The possible field artillery batteries are composed of straight embankments in front of the four probable firing positions.

All of the AAA sites in the maneuver area are probably used for training, whereas the occupied site in the barracks area has a defensive function. The emplacements in the possible AAA site are arranged in a diamond pattern.

Four of the field artillery batteries and two of the AAA sites are not shown on Figure 2.

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Infantry or Combined-Arms Field Training Areas

Figure 9 shows a combined-arms field training course containing 19 moving target runs with a maximum distance of 3,650 feet from the static firing line and the following angles of deflection: one 90 degrees left, one 65 degrees left, one 125 degrees right, two 90 degrees right, one 75 degrees left, one 130 degrees right, one 180 degrees, one 60 degrees left, two 135 degrees right, two 115 degrees left, one 30 degrees left, one [REDACTED] degrees right, one [REDACTED] degrees left, one [REDACTED] degrees right, one [REDACTED] degrees right, and one 120 degrees right.

There are seven fire-control buildings behind the static firing line and five other support buildings. Within the course are four trenches extending the width of the course and a number of foxholes. Ground scarring indicates the presence of both tracked and wheeled vehicles.

Figure 10 shows a combined-arms field training course containing 14 moving target runs with a maximum distance of 4,150 feet and the following angles of deflection: seven 90 degrees left, one 110 degrees left, one 50 degrees right, one 180 degrees, three [REDACTED] degrees left, and one 70 degrees left.

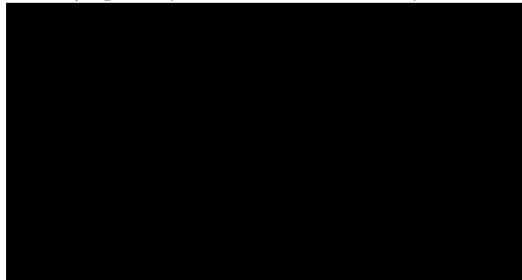
Foxholes are located throughout the course, but there are only two trenches. Two unidentified walled installations are observed. Scarring is present, but limited to two paths.

Figure 11 shows a combined-arms field training course containing two moving target runs (one 140 degrees right and one 145 degrees right) with a maximum length of 1,800 feet at its north end. No static firing line can be observed.

A small walled space at one end of the area contains five buildings, and an additional building is located outside the wall. The buildings have a probable support/administrative function.

Four well defined strong point field fortifi-

cations are widely dispersed in the training area (Figure 2).



SUPPLY DEPOT AND RAIL-TO-ROAD TRANSFER POINT (Figures 2, 12, and 13)

Administrative and Troop Housing Area

Area D (Figure 13) contains one probable administration building.

General Storage Area

Area E (Figure 13) contains 9 storage buildings and 11 support buildings.

Eight of the storage buildings are located adjacent to the rail spurs. [REDACTED] coverage revealed a number of rail cars alongside the buildings. Scattered throughout the installation are six areas containing large stacks of unidentified material in open storage.

POL Storage Area

Area G (Figure 13) contains four probable vertical tanks [REDACTED] in diameter. They do not appear to be served by rail, but heavy ground scarring is evident adjacent to them.

Equipment Storage/Maintenance Areas (Figure 13)

Area J1 contains one vehicle shed measuring 260 by 50 feet, one maintenance building measuring 100 by 55 feet, and 3 support buildings.

Approximately 66 probable cargo vehicles and 52 probable utility vehicles were observed on [REDACTED] coverage.

Area J2 contains two support buildings.

At least 70 unidentified pieces of equipment/vehicles were observed on [REDACTED] coverage.

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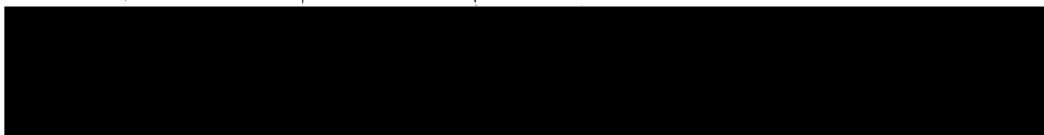
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REFERENCES

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PHOTOGRAPHY



MAPS OR CHARTS

US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0430-2AL, 1st ed, Jan 61 (SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

USIB-A-64

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